



INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



In reply refer to:

I-9592/66

Mr. Richard Helms
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Helms: *Dick*:

25X1A A few weeks ago I wrote you to tell you about a special summer study project on Vietnam to be undertaken in Wellesley, Massachusetts at the request of the Secretary of Defense. As you may recall, the participants in this study were largely drawn from university faculties, but also included several key members of the Institute for Defense Analyses. With your permission, [redacted] of CIA briefed the group during the period 13-24 June.

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As a result of the group's deliberations and a meeting with Mr. McNamara during this period, it was decided to concentrate on specific aspects of the Vietnam problem for the remainder of the summer. Four areas for further investigation were identified: an examination of the data on which estimates concerning Communist supply flows and requirements and personnel attrition are based; a bomb damage study of North Vietnam; an exploration of the possibility of erecting some sort of a barrier between South Vietnam and its neighbors as a device to cut down or stop the flow of manpower and supplies from the North; and an ECM study with particular emphasis on the command and control arrangements of the North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong and on jamming.

In order to do an effective job on all of these areas of investigation, it will be of great importance for representatives of the study group to be able to contact selected individuals and groups of the CIA. One of the most important tasks is that of coming to grips with the data problem. George Rathjens, Bruno Augenstein and Chester Cooper have been asked to provide overall guidance and assistance in this project. Leonard Wainstein, Charles Fritz, and a few others, principally from the IDA staff, will undertake the actual investigation. All the personnel involved have the necessary security

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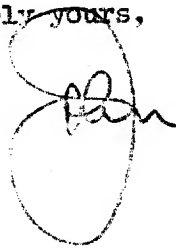
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clearances. I would think that they would find it especially worthwhile if they had access to CIA's Office of National Estimates, Office of Research and Reports, and the National Photographic Interpretation Center. ~~I would very much~~ appreciate it if you could make arrangements for these Study Group people to have access to appropriate personnel and information in these offices, and others where help might be available.

Colonel Marshall E. Sanders of my staff may be used as a contact for making detailed arrangements.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature, likely of Marshall E. Sanders, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a smaller, less distinct signature.